

# Northfield Open Space Committee

Minutes, Apr. 16, 2013

Town Hall – Planning Board Room

*Items in italics require action prior to next meeting.*

**Present:** Mike Barry, Joanne McGee, Sue Ross, Jenny Tufts, Jerry Wagener, Chair. Joe Stacey (Rec Commission)

**Absent:** Bob Hall, Kate Rossiter

**Guests:** Joel Fowler, Historical Commission;

Martha Lyon, Master Plan Consultant

Bill Giewzentanner, Open Space and Natural Resources, Master Plan Consultant

Annie Chappell, Golf Course Committee

Alex Stewart, Chair, Collaborative Committee

Nancy and George Champoux, Concerned citizens

The meeting opened at 7:30 pm.

1. **Martha Lyon, Master Plan Consultant:** Jerry explained that the Open Space and Recreation Plan revision has been provisionally approved by Melissa Cryan at the Executive office of Environmental Affairs. Jerry gave a copy of the Action Steps and the Trust for Public Land map to Martha Lyon. Martha explained the master plan process which includes an inventory of the resources of the town. At the next public meeting the committee will present the inventory. The Master Plan will be finished by October or November. Bill Giezentanner will use elements from the OSRP. He is reviewing parts of the plan and commented that plans “often have more recreation actions”. The Committee discussed recreation issues, the needs, locations for a park. *Bill will send us his open space section for our approval.* The Master Plan Committee will be meeting with the National Christian Foundation and with NMH.

2. **Mill Brook wetlands:** Jerry said that NMH may be willing to consider an approach from the town on the wetlands but not the 19-acre field east of the wetlands. He distributed a map with the wetlands outlined in red. The field may or may not be included in the wetland parcel. There was also discussion about the possibility that National Christian Foundation may have a 1<sup>st</sup> option on the golf course, wetlands, and 19 acres. NMH is inviting them to relinquish the option within 45 days.

3. **Crag Mountain closing:** Joanne detailed her conversation with Harry Sharbaugh who is the AMC volunteer for the section of the New England National Scenic Trail in Northfield. Bob Pasteris monitors the Brush/Crag portion for Harry. Josh Surette is the National Park person responsible for the Massachusetts portion and is talking with the landowner who owns the top of Crag Mountain. It is not known exactly why the landowner has closed the trail although there are rumors about trash and negative comments. An offer to buy an easement “has not met up with the expectations of the landowner”. With the closure, the AMC has had to reroute the trail to go east on So. Mtn. Road and then north on Gulf Road to the Brush Mt. trailhead. Harry and Bob with some trail-friendly volunteers are hoping to build an alternate trail from Old Wendell Road to the ridge. Alex Stewart commented that he knows the landowner and is willing to call the family.

4. **EEA requests for the revised OSRP:** Jerry reviewed comments submitted by Jenny, Mike, Sue, and Joanne. *Joanne will get information about the tree and shrub plantings that were part of the Streetscape project.*

5. The **minutes** from March 19, 2013, were approved. Jenny/Sue 5-0

6. The meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm. The next meeting will be May 21, 2013.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne McGee